

## **How to Vote**

You can vote in person at your assigned polling place on Election Day or you can vote by mail on a vote-by-mail ballot.

### **Voting at the polling place on Election Day**

Polls are open in California from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Some counties also offer early voting at a few polling places before Election Day. When you arrive at your polling place, a poll worker will ask for your name and check an official list of registered voters for that polling place. After you sign next to your name on the list, the poll worker will give you a paper ballot, unique passcode, or computer memory card, depending on the voting system your county uses. Go to a private booth and begin voting. Poll workers are there to assist voters with the voting process. If you are not familiar with how to cast a ballot, ask a poll worker for instructions on how to use the voting system. If you make a mistake in marking the ballot, ask a poll worker for instructions on how to correct a mistake on the ballot. If you need to, you can ask for a new ballot and start over.

State and federal laws require polling places to be physically accessible to voters with disabilities. County elections officials inspect each site and often make temporary alterations to homes, libraries, garages, churches, businesses, schools, or other facilities in an effort to make them accessible to all voters on Election Day. Every person who works in a polling place on Election Day must be trained on elections laws and the rights of voters with disabilities, including the need to make reasonable modifications of policies and procedures to ensure equal access.

State and federal laws require that all voters be able to cast their ballots privately and independently. Some voting systems have been specifically designed with this in mind to assist voters with disabilities. Each polling place is required to have at least one voting machine that permits voters, including those who are blind or visually impaired, to cast a ballot without assistance. The voting machine also must permit you to privately and independently verify your vote choices and, if there is an error, permit you to correct those choices before casting the final ballot.

### **Voting by mail**

After you mark your choices on your vote-by-mail ballot, put it in the official envelope provided by your county elections office and seal it. Place the proper postage on the envelope and sign the outside of the envelope where directed. Vote-by-mail ballots must be received by county elections offices no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, so be sure to mail your vote-by-mail ballot in plenty of time before Election Day.

Even if you receive your vote-by-mail ballot, you can change your mind and vote at your polling place on Election Day. However, you must bring your vote-by-mail ballot to the polling place and give it to a poll worker to exchange for a polling place ballot. If you do not have your vote-by-mail ballot, you will be allowed to vote on a “provisional” ballot, which will be counted after elections officials have confirmed that you are registered to vote and you did not vote more than once in that election.

**SUBJECT TO COURT  
ORDERED CHANGES**